

City of Culver City, California
City Council Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: 10/24/05		Item Number: <u>C-10</u>	
AGENDA ITEM: Consideration of Approval of a Six-Month Extension of the Contract for Copeland Lowery Jacquez Denton and White as the City's Advocate for Federal Funding and Legislation.			
Contact Person/Dept.: Shelly W. Chagnon		Phone Number: (310) 253-6008	
Fiscal Impact: Yes ☒ No ☐		General Fund: Yes ☒ No ☐	
Public Hearing: ☐		Action Item: ☒ Attachments: ☒	
Public Notification: Copeland Lowery Jacquez Denton & White and Master Notification List on 10/19/05			
Department Approval: Jerry B. Fulwood 8/18/05		CAO Approval: Jerry Fulwood 10/18/05	
City Controller Approval: Marlee Chang 10/18/05			
<u>RECOMMENDATION:</u> That the City Council authorize an Agreement with Copeland Lowery Jacquez Denton & White (CLJ) to represent the City on federal issues for a period not to exceed six months and name two Councilmembers to an Ad Hoc Legislative Subcommittee to evaluate federal lobbyists through Request for Proposal process. <u>BACKGROUND:</u> Federal lobbyists primarily assist cities in obtaining grants and funding for projects. They also coordinate meetings with Federal officials and legislators. With the use of a lobbyist many cities have obtained grants and appropriations for water, sewer and transportation projects and have been proactive in affecting legislation or programs that can impact the municipality. Recently, the City engaged in a Professional Services Agreement with CLJ for governmental affairs and representation on federal issues in matters affecting the City, with regards to Transportation. CLJ was retained from June 1, 2005 through September 30, 2005, and during this period, the firm was paid a total of \$10,000, as authorized by the Chief Administrative Officer. During that time, CLJ was effective in securing a \$2 Million federal appropriation to fund preliminary planning and engineering efforts at the Interstate 10 Robertson/National Boulevard on and off ramps. This area has been the source of severe traffic congestion that impacts Culver City on a regular basis. Working with the City's Transportation Director, CLJ initiated this funding request, which will not only benefit Culver City but the region as well.			

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DISCUSSION:

In the FY 05-06 Budget, the City Council agreed to allocate funding for a federal lobbyist. Examples of where the City will need federal representation and funding opportunities include but are not limited to the following areas:

1. Federal Appropriations Requests
2. Transportation/circulation improvements for freeways and major corridors
3. Public Transit
4. Homeland Security
5. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Assistance
6. Telecommunications and Franchise Agreements
7. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program preservation
8. Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
9. Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
10. Department of Justice (DOJ)
11. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Brownfields funding
12. Homelessness/Veterans Administration
13. Historic Preservation
14. Cultural Affairs

Primarily, the City of Culver City will be working closely with Jim Copeland, Managing Partner of CLJ, in addition to Chris Kierig. Both individuals have strong contacts in Washington D.C. with legislators from both parties as well as their staff. These relationships in D.C. will assist the firm in its role as the City's advocate on various issues and help to achieve the goal of securing funding in a variety of areas.

In the upcoming months, staff will initiate the RFP process to obtain proposals from firms that specialize in governmental relations at the federal level. Staff recommends that the City Council name a subcommittee of two Councilmembers to evaluate proposals and interview firms. This process was useful in FY 01/02 when the Ad Hoc Legislative Subcommittee of Councilmembers Corlin and Rose helped interview and recommend the City's State lobbyist. Staff plans to return to Council with a recommendation for a firm in the upcoming months.

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FISCAL ANALYSIS:

It is proposed that CLJ will provide services to the City at a cost of \$4,000 per month for a total of \$24,000 for the six month period. There is adequate funding in the FY 05/06 Budget in Account Number 10110100.619800 for Other Contractual Services.

ATTACHMENTS:

Proposal from CLJ.

MOTION:

That the City Council:

1. Approve the six-month extension of the Agreement to retain Copeland Lowery Jacquez Denton & White as the City's federal governmental advocacy firm; and
2. Direct the City Attorney to prepare the proper documents and authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to execute the Agreement on behalf of the City; and
3. Appoint _____ and _____ to serve on the Ad Hoc Legislative Subcommittee to meet to evaluate proposals and interview federal lobbyist candidates during the City's RFP process.